Overcharging by Haj Panel

2340. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published under the captions "Haj Panel overcharging, claims pilgrims' appearing in the Times of India of 2nd February, 2000;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The news-item in question relates to the case filed against Central Haj Committee, Mumbai, in November, 1997 before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. The case is subjudice. The Central Haj Committee charges the pilgrims the actual costs of various services provided. In cases where the accommodation provided to the pilgrims is of lower category than what has been paid for, then the difference in charges is reimbursed to the pilgrim on return to India.

Terrorist training camps in POK, Pakistan and Afghanistan

2341. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorists in Kashmir are directly confronting army by attacking them at their Head Quarters;

(b) whether it is a fact that American official sources have confirmed Bin Laden's involvement in terrorist activities in Kashmir;

(c) whether, it is also a fact that terrorist training camps are established in Pak occupied Kashmir, Pakistan and Afghanistan;

(d) whether international law permits attack on such hostile camps;

(e) if so, whether Government have any plans of dislodging such camps by using force or at least warning the concerned Governments for a strong action against them; and

(0 if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Several suicide attacks